

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA:IAI:WBSMITH:NEA:ARLAY:TH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

P:JJSISCO

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R 141550Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089858

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES

REF: TEL AVIV 2484

1. I APPRECIATE THE REASONS FOR NOT RAISING THE SETTLEMENT QUESTION WITH RABIN AT THIS TIME. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE IS ONE OF THE MORE TROUBLESOME IN OUR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND SEEMS UNLIKELY TO GO AWAY. IF THE ISRAELIS DO ANNOUNCE A PROGRAM OF NEW SETTLEMENTS WE WILL PROBABLY FIND IT DIFFICULT, WITH THE RECOLLECTION OF THE SCRANTON STATEMENT STILL FRESH, NOT TO MAKE SOME PRESS COMMENT EVEN IF ONLY IN ANSWER TO QUERIES.

2. I DO AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD NOT PUT OURSELVES IN THE POSITION OF TELLING RABIN HOW WE THINK HE OUGHT TO RESOLVE THE QADUM PROBLEM. I ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS NO POINT IN RESTATING OUR VIEWS IN ANY FORMAL WAY ON THE
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SETTLEMENTS ISSUE. AS YOU POINT OUT, THE SCRANTON

STATEMENT PLUS YOUR RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ALLON HAVE LEFT RABIN IN NO DOUBT ON THIS SCORE.

3. UNLESS YOU SEE A SERIOUS OBJECTION, THEREFORE, I THINK

YOU SHOULD HAVE AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM WITH RABIN. YOU COULD TAKE THE TACK THAT YOU REALIZE THERE IS NO NEED TO REMIND HIM ABOUT U.S. VIEWS ON THE SETTLEMENTS OR TO BELABOR THE POINT THAT ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS OF THIS KIND ARE BOUND TO GIVE US PROBLEMS. YOU COULD POINT OUT THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE ISSUE POSES SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES FOR RABIN. THE POINT OF YOUR APPROACHING HIM WOULD BE TO HAVE A DISCUSSION AND HEAR HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE ISRAELI HANDLING OF A PROBLEM THAT AFFECTS BOTH OF US.

4. RABIN IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR HIS RECENT STATEMENTS REMINDING ISRAELI PUBLIC THAT THERE ARE LARGE AREAS OF U.S.-ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON MAJOR ISSUES AND CALLING FOR AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT NOT TO BE EXAGGERATED. YOU COULD TELL HIM IT IS IN THAT SAME SPIRIT YOU ARE SEEKING HIS VIEWS ON PROBLEM OF SETTLEMENTS. KISSINGER

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